(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) There has been some impact on tourism from the Far East due to collapse of their currencies.

(c) and (d) Many foreign airlines are interested in mounting additional flights to India because of the potential market size. Traffic rights to foreign airlines are granted on the basis of reciprocity and balancing of benefits to the designated airlines of both the sides, keeping in view the requirements of tourism, travel and international trade.

Performance of Civil Aviation Industry

588. SHRI BANARSI DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Civil Aviation industry is earning a lot of money to the exchequer due to increased flow of traffic to and from India by bringing thousands of tourists and business people but Government have failed miserably to promote this industry; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to boost this industry by its overcoming difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Civil Aviation Sector makes a significant contribution to the exchequer by payment of various taxes, duties and earnings from visiting tourists.

(b) Some of the measures taken/being pursued by the Government to further promote this sector are as under:—

(i) Liberalisation of Tourist Charter guidelines.

(ii) Promotion of Regional Airlines.

(iii) Development of Model Airports.

(iv) Liberalised Airport Infrastructure Policy.

(v) Concessional fares by airlines to attract passengers.

(vi) Pricing of Aviation Turbine Fuel at par with international rates.

(vii) Creation of a National Civil Aviation Development Fund; and

(viii) Infrastructure status to Airlines operation and Aircraft acquisition etc.

New Aircrafts for IA/AI

589. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to acquire some new aircrafts for Indian Airlines and Air India;

(b) if so, the number of aircrafts proposed to be purchased for AI and IA;

(c) the details of the proposals pending in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken to clear those proposals?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Expansion/renewal of fleet by the two airlines is a continuing exercise and depends on the resources of the airlines, traffic requirements, suitability of the aircraft type, viability of operations on various sectors/routes etc.

Expansion plan of Delhi Airport

590. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that long awaited Rs. 2000 crore airport expansion plan in Delhi is in jeopardy as the Airport Authority have yet to acquire land from villages around the airport;

(b) if so, the reasons for inordinate delay in the acquisition of land; and

(c) whether the Airport Authority had entered into any agreement with the villagers for acquisition of land and if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir. Land has already been acquired around the airport for this purpose. Howver, within the airport area there are some villages which are not with Airports Authority of India but are needed for future operational requirements and construction of cargo facilities. Action has been initiated to take over required land and to rehabilitate affected persons in the alternate sites developed by Delhi Development Authority.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

Capacity constraints in Indian Airlines

591. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Airlines has been facing capacity constraints;

(b) if so, since when; and

(c) the steps taken to deal with the problems arising out of capacity constraints in Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Pay Disparity among the Employees of Centaur Hotel

592. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of Air India owned Centaur Hotel at Srinagar in J&K are getting lower increment than their counterparts in other Centaur Hotels in the country in the similar pay scales;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Separate wage argeements are signed by the Management with the respective unions of each hotel unit of Hotel Corporation of India depending upon productivity, profitability etc. of each individual unit. In view of above, the wages of unionised staff are not uniforme in all the hotel units.

दरभंगा से विमान सेवा शुरू किया जाना

593. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव:** क्या नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने दरभंगा से देश के अन्य भागों के लिए विमान सेवा शुरू करने हेतु कोई कदम उठाए हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

नागर विमानन मंत्री (श्री अनंत कुमार): (क) से (ग) दरभंगा में कोई सिविल हवाई अड्डा उपलब्ध नहीं है। तथापि, पटना हवाई अड्डे से ही विमान यातायात संबंधी अवश्कताओं की पूर्ति की जा रही है।

Blacklisting of AI and IA by IATATC

594. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Air Transport Associations Technical Committee has categorised Indian Airlines and Air India as the sixth riskiest airlines and blacklisted them alongwith other 32 airlines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) International Air Transport Association (IATA) has denied having incorporated in its safety report safety statistics relating to safety performance of any specific airline, including Air India and Indian Airlines.

(b) Does not arise.